

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

- Group I: Claim(s) 1-8, 12-13, drawn to aqueous dispersion of oxide particles and (poly)phosphate.
- Group II: Claim(s) 9-10, drawn to method of preparing the dispersion.
- Group III: Claim(s) 11, drawn to method of preparing a cosmetic formulation.
- Group IV: Claim(s) 14, drawn to process for preparing the dispersion.
- Group V: Claim(s) 15, drawn to process for preparing the dispersion.

In addition, two species elections are required:

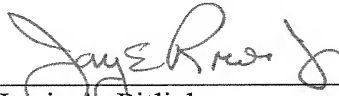
- Species Election I: A single disclosed compound representing Formula I. Note that M, a, and n must be defined.
- Species Election II: A particular metal oxide from oxides of titanium, zinc, iron, cerium, a specific mixed oxide from the list with either aluminum or silicon.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-8 and 12-13, for examination. As a single disclosed Species I, Applicants provisionally elect one compound corresponding to Formula I, where M is Na; n is 3 and a is 1. As a single disclosed Species II, Applicants provisionally elect TiO₂.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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